

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Shields W6028

Lydia (Lidia)

f29VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/10/12

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Pittsylvania County, to wit:

On this 16th day of October 1841 personally appeared before Stephen Coleman a Justice of the Peace for said County and State aforesaid Lidia shields a resident of the County of Pittsylvania and State aforesaid, aged 86 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision may by the act of Congress, passed July 4th, 1836. That she is the widow of Thomas Shields who was a Militia Soldier in the War of the Revolution, to her own personal knowledge he served two Tours of duty under Captain John Donaldson on the Waters of New River in the year 1776 & 1778. In the winter and spring of the year 1781 he served a Tour of duty in North Carolina under Captain Shelton was at the Battle of Guildford [battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781]. In the summer and fall of the same year 1781 he served a Tour of duty under Captain William Dix he was at York Town when Lord Corn Wallace surrendered [surrender of Cornwallis on October 19, 1781].

She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Shields on the 21st day of July in the year 1772 and that her husband the aforesaid Thomas Shields died on the 2nd day of October 1831 that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

The whole time of service as proved by John Terry,<sup>1</sup> John Neal,<sup>2</sup> Abraham Chaney,<sup>3</sup> Isham Farmer and that William Jeffries<sup>4</sup> is one year, one month and 20 days for which he claims a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written before me.

S/ Ste Coleman

S/ Lidia Shields, X her mark

[f p. 8: Finding by the court of Pittsylvania County Virginia dated May 25, 1850 stating that the widow died February 25, 1845 survived by 4 children, Pleasant Shields, Elizabeth Shields, Susan Shields, & John Shields and that only Pleasant & John are now living.]

[f p. 23]

I John Terry a resident of Pittsylvania County in the State of Virginia do hereby Certify that I was a Soldier & Ensign in the War of the Revolution, That in the month of April in the year 1776 I

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<sup>1</sup> [John Terry S7699](#)

<sup>2</sup> FPA S5810

<sup>3</sup> [Abraham Chaney W25412](#)

<sup>4</sup> [William Jeffries \(Jeffries\) S18470](#)

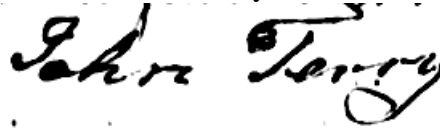
volunteered with Captain John Donaldson and marched through the County of Franklin and was stationed at Hands Meadows or Hawford on New River to protect the frontier settlements from the attacks of the Indians I well recollect that Thomas Shields who died in this County some years ago, and whose widow Lidia Shields is now an applicant for a pension volunteered in the said Company and Served with me under Captain John Donaldson as above stated at least three months and fifteen days – when said Company was discharged and we returned home.

Given under my hand this 26 day of August 1841

Witness

S/ James Terry

S/ John Terry

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Terry". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

[f p. 24]

This Deposition of John Neal a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States residing in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia taken before me William L. Pannill a Justice of the Peace in and for said County of Pittsylvania on the 18th day of September 1841 who being duly sworn according to law saith that in the spring of the year 1778 Captain John Donaldson raised a company of Volunteers to go against the Cherokee Indians, that Thomas Shields who resided in the County of Pittsylvania for many years was a private in the said Company that marched from the said County of Pittsylvania on the 7th day of April in the year 1778 he served in said Company with the said Shields then went through the County of Franklin and was stationed at Colonel Preston's & at Hatfield Fort near New River in the County of Montgomery in the State of Virginia until about the 12th of August 1778 when the said Company was discharged and returned home after the War ended he frequently met with Thomas Shields who lived in the said County and knew him to be the same Identical man that served the tour of duty under Captain Donaldson as aforesaid.

S/ John Neal, X his mark

[f p. 25]

The deposition of Abraham Chaney a revolutionary pensioner of the United States residing in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia taken before me Stokely Turner a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County of Pittsylvania on the 22nd day of September 1841 – who being first duly sworn according to law saith that in the spring of the year 1778 Captain John Donaldson raised a company of volunteers to go against the Cherokee Indians that a certain man by the name of Shields which I believe to be Thomas, who resided in the County of Pittsylvania was a private in the said Company, that marched from the County of Pittsylvania on the 7th day of April in the year 1778, he served in the said Company with the said Shields they were through the County of Franklin, and was stationed at Colonel Preston's, at Hatfield fort near New River, in the County of Montgomery in the State of Virginia, until about the 12th of August 1778 when the company was discharged and returned home, after the war ended, he frequently saw the said Shields and [several indecipherable words] his name to be Thomas, who lived in the said County and knew him to be the same identical man that served the tour of duty under Captain Donaldson as aforesaid.

S/ Abraham Chaney, X his mark

[f p. 26]

The deposition of Isham Farmer aged ninety years of sound mind and good memory residing in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia taken before Stephen Coleman a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid on the 11th day of October 1841 He being duly sworn according to law deposeseth and says that he was well acquainted with Thomas Shields and lived a close neighbor to him during the whole time of the War of the Revolution and for many years thereafter, and well remember that the said Thomas Shields served several Tours of duty in the militia Service of the said Revolutionary War, viz. I believe he served two tours of duty in the year 1776 and 1778 on the Waters of New River then the Frontiers of Virginia under Captain John Donaldson to defend the Settlements from the attacks of the Indians. In the winter of 1781 he served a tour of duty in the State of North Carolina under Captain Brewer or Captain Shelton and was at the Battle of Guilford in the same year he served a tour of duty under Captain William Dix I myself served in that tour with him from early in the month of August until after the Surrender of Lord Corn Wallace at Yorktown in the month of October 1781 when we were discharged having served on this tour near 3 months. The said Thomas Shields was married to Lidia Bays before the commencement of the said War and left her with his children at home every tour that he served, he lived with her after the War ended to the day of his death. She the said Lydia is now his widow and has not married since his death.

S/ Isham Farmer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isham Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I" and a long, sweeping underline.

[f p. 27]

The affidavit of William Jeffres [sic] a revolutionary Pensioner of the United States residing in the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia taken before Leonard Claiborne a Justice of the Peace for said County on the 14th day of October 1841 who being duly sworn according to law says that he was well acquainted with Thomas Shields in the time of the Revolutionary War and knows from his own personal knowledge that he served a tour of duty in the militia service under Captain William Dix who marched from the said County of Pittsylvania about the 1st of August in the year 1781 to the Eastern part of Virginia that the said Thomas Shields was at Yorktown when Lord Corn Wallace surrendered, after which he was ordered to go as a Guard with the Prisoners to Nowlands Ferry [Nolan's ferry] he started, was taken sick and discharged in Hanover Court House in the month of November 1781 I believe he served on this tour at least 3 months, he was at that time a married man.

S/ William Jeffres, X his mark

[The widow was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 1/3 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for the service of her husband as a private for 10 months in the Virginia militia. The heirs of the widow of the veteran were pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 1/3 per annum commencing March 4th, 1843 and ending February 26, 1845 for the service of the veteran as a private for 10 months in the Virginia service.]